ON THE DRAWING BOARD

UNDER THE ARCH

Ditko

"Dave Kaler And Friends"

Several people have told us that even though OTDB was billed as a monthly, it did not seem to be published that often. Just for the record, let me state that issue #6 (which I concider the Gateway Clubs first issue, because it was printed offset) definitely came out in October, #7 definitely came out in November, and #8 definitely came out in December. For those three consecutive months, we maintained our schedule perfectly. However, because of sickness on both ends of production line, you will have received issue 9 just a week or so before this issue, number 10. This is the sort of thing no one can expect, and we can only apologize for last issue arriving when it did. This issue will have gone to the printer withing the first week of February, and we are now back on schedule.

We would like now to direct your attention to a few changes in this issue. Technically, the metamorphosis of of OTDB is just about complete, and from now on, each issue will look much like the last, something that has not been true in the past. You will recognize that the name "Dateline: Comicdom" is new, and this is because we didn't think the "Ego Crusher" was a very good name for an index. The Ego Crusher will continue as the name of our fanzine review column. And speaking of our zine review column, you will note a new name on the heading, that of Bob Latona, co-editor of the very fine fanzine VANGUARD. Bob will fill-in during those months when Bill Spicer is unable to come up with something for us. and he starts off with an Italian fanzine which we doubt if too many of you were famillliar.

Another new name in this issue is that of Johnny Chambers. Johnny is the talented cartoonist who also puts out a very fine fanzine entitled, YMIR. In the short space of a few issues, Johnny has made his "Little Green Dinosour" one of the most loved creations in fandom. We think you'll enjoy it, so be sure to be around next month when he really gets underway!

"What's News" is now the definite title for Dave's news column now. We felt that having the zine called OTDB, and having the main feature refered to by the same name was not a very good idea, so we borrowed from the SICK magazine satire of that very feature--thanks for the idea, Joe.

As many of you can immagine, OTDB is sold even to non-academy members at a very fine price--provided you subscribe as most of our readers do. Technically, OTDB is worth about 15-25¢ per issue, and as you can see, all subscribers receive it at a great discount. However, even though we feel this is one of our best advantages, we won't be able to continue to this policy unless the Academy's supporting membership is bolstered conciderably in the months to come. Before too long, an advertisment will be prepared detailing what members (supporting that is) will receive for their membership, and urging more fans to join. Therefore, Dave will be looking for fanzines to carry the ad, and if you'd like to volunteer your zine, drop Dave a line, and he'll see to it that when the ad is printed, you receive enough copies to match your print run.

For those of you who ordered Gosh Wow, let me tell you that most of it is at the printers, and please be patient. This fanzine has over 100 normally typed pages, and asside from being a lot of work to prepare, is a very costly project. If you would like to see the zine out sooner, you should order (if you haven't already), advertise your fanzine, or perhaps even invest some money. If you'd like to advertise your fanzine, the rate is $3 per quarter page to any zine ed, or equivilent space in your fanzine for us.

STAFF:
Bill Spicer: 4878 Garanada St., Los Angeles, Cal. 90042
Dave Kaler: Box 392, Cooper Station, NY, NY. 10003.
Bob Latona, 148 S. Wrexham Ct., Tonawanda, NY. 14150.
Johnny Chambers, 1438 Lansing Ave., San Jose, Cal.95118
John McGeehan, 405 E. 5th St., Santa Ana, Cal. 92701
Mark Hanerfeld, 42-42 Golden St., Flushing, NY. 11355.
Hugh Surratt, 5382 Van Ness Dr., Bollmfield Hills, Mich. 48013.
Jim Sullivan, 64 Sophia Ave., Brockton, Mass. 02401
Jim Gardner, 475 Patton Ave., San Jose, Cal. 95128.
Alan Hutchinson, 4051 60th Way North, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Ken Keller, 4512 Clairemont Dr., San Diego, Cal. 92117.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD, VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10, WHOLE NUMBER 57, FEBRUARY 1966

OTDB is published monthly by The Gateway Comic Art Fan Club, c/o Robert Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Mo. 63114.

Price per single issue: 25¢, 35¢ sent flat, 30¢ sent by air mail, and 40¢@ sent flat and air.
Price per 12 issue subscription: $1.50, or $1.00 to members of the Academy. (See Academy Forum in this issue to find out who is a supporting member of the Academy.)
Overseas Subscriptions: 50¢ per issue, or 40¢ per issue to supporting members of the Academy. Use International Money Order, please.

No portion of these contents may be reprinted without the expressed permission of the publisher.

For inclusion in OTDB, material must reach us by the first of the month. Usually, OTDB will be out by the second or third week.

Persons who would supply us with news should send same to Dave Kaler for verification. Contributions of news or artwork receive free issues, with regular contributors getting their copies flat.

Art credits for this issue are: pg.1--Jim Sullivan; pg.2--Steve Ditko; pg.3--Hugh Surratt; pg.4--Jim Gardner; pg.5--Johnny Chambers; pg.6--logo by Bob Schoenfeld; pg.7--Jim Gardner; pg.8--nobody.

News sources this issue are Bill Spicer and Dave Kaler.

Advertisment rates: $3 per quarter page to fanzines who rate a "3" on the DiC checklist. For specific information on preparing your ad, send an sae. Also, to zine eds who wish to advertise prior to going to press, or whos zines don't rate 3s, send an sae.

Print run for this great issue is 500!

WHAT'S NEWS

DAVE KALER

MARVEL

Lady Dorma will soon follow the route set by the late Namora by fighting side-by-side with the undersea prince--Submariner, in a battle with the Thunderer. And don't be too surprised if before too long you see Dan Adkins doing some inks of Everett pencils on the Submariner, and even some strips entirely his own. // In an upcoming Daredevil, the Marvel missunderstanding of the century takes place when Thor gets the grudges on DD with battle sure to follow. // Iron Man and Thor will pop back on the Avengers scene shortly when the Mandarin builds up a team of super villains. And then, in another issue we find the return of Diablo out of the pages of the Fantastic Four. Big "D" returns to bring forth more Dragon Men but Hercules fights and destroys them. // Gil Kane will be concentrating exclusively on Captain America, and the Hulk will be turned once again, over to another artist. // Johnny Severin, who made Tales of Shield popular, will return before long to the Marvel Bullpen, but on Sgt. Fury. // Fans who are enjoying the Marvel reprints in Fantasy Masterpieces, you may want to drop the Bullpen a few notes on stories you'd like to see reprinted--this is a deal you can hardly beat at 25¢.

TOWER

When the schedule foul-up is cleared away, the following titles and stories will be appearing during April and May: NoMan's mind is once again taken over by enemy agents and the Thunder squad are chasing after in an attempt to transfer his mind to another body. // Thunder Agents will soon be featuring an Undersea Agent tale in place of the Raven. The artist on the latter has been changed, and they were left with an empty spot for one issue. The USA tale is a followup to the android story in Undersea #3, and is called "Second Atlantis!" // Lightning will be involved in a two-part tale soon involving a new baddie, the Mock Man. Chick Stone took over the art on this one. Also, look for Dr. Forkliff to reappear in part two of this story, along with a big change in Lightning's powers.

KING

Bill Harris has asked to announce and apologize to fans that many citied did not receive copies of Flash Gordon #4 and Mandrake #4. The print run in December was cut by 50,000 copies before the distribution runs had been made up. In order to keep their contract with foreign distributors, these books were not sent out, but went instead overseas. For those who missed them, don't write to King, they don't have them. Your best bet is to contact a fan in a city that did get them. // And when you look for the next issues of the King comics, don't go to the newstand! King is packaging their books and selling them diredtly to dime stores and the like who will carry them on their toy racks. They will go at a special price for three issues, and you'll find more of them around for there will be no returns. The books will sit until they sell.

GOLD KEY

Dr. Solar faces neuclear nightmares when his dreams come true, but these dreams are 3D horrors. // The girl from UNCLE finds herself out at sea to face an atomic pirate (whatever that is) in the Captain Kidd affair. // The Time Tunnel travelers are in the future now, and they encounter a futuristic Nazi type group who plans to return to World War II, and turn the tide in Hitler's favor. // Western fans will probably enjoy reading (or rereading as the case may be) the 12¢ Roy Rogers reprint out soon. // The Seaview encounters the Ultrasub, a special vehicle designed for the destruction of the former in Voyage To The Bottom of The Sea. // Daniel Boone is forced to attempt to rescue his own son from the hands of the outraged Iriquois and all because he saw a sacred rite in their medicine lodge. // In an upcoming Turok, the prehistoric dup encounter spacemen and flying saucers. // Magnus finds himself being replaced as the Robot Fighter when the outsiders go to bat for Magnus' competitor. // Ilya and Napoleon are having a bit of a go with The Flying Clowns affair. // Other titles to look for from Gold Key soon are Tarzan, Space Family Robinson, a special Uncle Scrooge book, another Green Hornet, and a Little Lulu summer special for 25¢. // But if you dig the young crowd, don't miss The Wodniks with art by Loyd White.

There are also some special Gold Key comics coming out this year, and collectors of odd items will want to watch for them. They are miniature comics that are given out where Child Guidance or Child Life Shoes are sold. These include Flintstones, Tarzan (with art by Nat Edson), Bugs Bunny, Laurel & Hardy, Daffy Duck, 3 Stooges, Tom & Jerry, Daniel Boone, Little Lulu, Lassie, Yogi Bear, and the Lone Ranger.

PEANUTS

Broadway will soon see the appearance of the world renown Peanuts clan in a musical show. And can you think of a better follow-up to the Superman show of last year? // Moreover, MGM has released an LP album called "Your're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." and on their Leo series, too. Orson Bean is Charlie, incidentally. // On January 27th in Toronto, Snoopy was awarded the Grand Order of the Stout Heart medal, better known as the Gosh Medal. He was decorated with it while seated proudly upon his dog house, and while wearing his best flying headgear.

NEWSPAPER STRIPS

In the Cartoonist, a mag put out by the National Cartoonist's Society, Henri Arnold tells of the smaller space allotted newspaper strips these days. // Unless a strip is a real blockbuster, there is little chance for success anymore! A strip lauched two years ago in Canada called "The Giants" leaped across the boarder on February 6th. It is Canda's most widely published comic strip, and it features the life story of famous person. Art is by Norm Drew, and script is by Hal McDayter. // Bob Lubbers vacated the Secret Agent X-9 strip on January 30th to work on his new strip, Robin

Malone, which goes into circulation Sunday March 19th from NEA. The strip concerns itself with the life of a lady Chief Executive and the use of her money for philanthropic purposes around the world. Other characters are a saint bernard named Brandy, Robin's mother-in-law, Maggie Malone, and Aubrey Peregrine-Osbourne, the Butler-chauffeur. This is a jet set strip with exotic settings, adventure, realism, and fun about a woman involved in today's world. // Meanwhile, Al Williamson takes over the Secret Agent X-9 strip, and Archie Goodwin writes the stories. With a combo like that, the X-9 strip could go to the top of the heap. //

NATIONAL PERIODICALS

Bob Kanigher: Our Army at War #181 has Rock trying to figure out which of his men have the heart for battle in the tale of "Monday's Coward--Tuesday's Hero!" // Johnny Cloud is the second feature in G.I. Combat #124 in "Death of A Boy--Birth of a Man!" and Jeb Stewart takes the Haunted Tank on another impossible mission in "Scratch That Tank!" in the same issue. // Death can come from all sides in Star Spangled War Stories #133, when not only does the enemy want you dead, but your friend too.

Julius Schwartz: In Atom 31 the mighty mite and Hawkman team up to meet the menace of the two-in-one villain, "Good Man, Bad Man--Turnabout Thief!" // Hawkman encounters "Lion-Mane, The Tabu Terror in #20 of his book. It all happens while flying over the valley of mists. // Two tales coming up in Green Lantern #53: "Captive of The Evil Eye", and with his brothers, "Two GLs In The Family!" // Some mystic action in Batman 171 when criminals learn how to escape the caped crusader by looking into a crystal ball. // Flash takes on Dr. Light in #171 of his book, but the good Dr. brings the scarlet speedster to a dead stop. But I want to know when Barry Allen lets go of the secret...// and when the Flash is turned into a spectral menace, only the power of the Spectre can combat him in another team up for Brave & Bold #72. // The Royal Flush Gang is back to trouble the JLA in issue 54 when the team tackles the puzzle of the history-making costumes of the Royal Flush Gang. // Detective 364 has the dynamic duo perplexed over the "Curious Case of The Clueless Crimes."

Murray Boltinoff: When the Challengers meet a teenager in combat, they find he's no pushover, for he holds the "License to Kill!" in number 56. // Bob Hope and Jad take the faculty of Fear from Secret Agent High along to shoot an epic in Hollywood called "Scareyorphonic Sound and Horror-Scope" in #105. // Fighting side-by-side, the Doom Patrol joins the Brotherhood of Evil in "Brothers In Blood!" and you'll see the origin of Beast Boy in "Waif of The Wilderness! all in DP 112.

Mort Wesinger: adventure 357 has the legionaires battling the wrath of "The Ghost of Ferro Lad". // Superman tackles a foe with the powers of Zeus, Hercules, Achilles, Vulcan, Apollo and Mercury in action 351. // Superman 197 is also that month's 80Pg. Giant and features Kent as a caveman, a fireman, and a gangster. // Jimmy Olsen is killed in #102 of his book, and Superman helps to do it. // World's Finest has Supergirl, Brainiac and Toyman meeting up with a different Superman and Batman in issue 167.

Miscellaneous: The new Blackhawks conquer a deadly nerve gas in #233 while testing out their new super-hero identities. // It's the usual mundane madness in Metal Men 26 when the group meets the Metal Mods. // Animal Man tackles an anthropoid menace in Strange Adventures 201. // Scooter takes his whole nutty crew on a "Love on Wheels" joy ride in issue #7. // Robby Reed faces the awsome (?) threat on the horrendous Rainbow Raider in Dial H #167.

BELMONT'S SHADOW

From Robert Vann comes word that the next Shadow novel is due out on the first of April, and that it will be titled: "The Shadow: Destination Moon." Production of the Shadow novels has slowed down conciderably, I might add, as they are not as popular now.

TARZAN INFORMATION

The lifeline is back out for the Tarzan strip once more. Burroughs, Inc. had withdrawn the strip from the syndicate in a dispute over finances, and Tarzan came near the end of his newspaper career after thirty years. John Celardo, artist for 13 years, and writer for the last 6 had already gone to work for National on a new book when he dropped it to return to do Tarzan again. The strip is now being re-routed to Burroughs, Inc. before it is seen by the syndicate, and this could foreshadow an increase in quality for the ol' tree swinger.

FOREIGN MAGAZINES

Corriere Dei Piccoli from Italy features a special section devoted to comic reprints of old American and Italian comic strips of the early 1900s. Among the strips printed are Felix the Cat from '26, Happy Hooligan and Maude the Mule from 1923, Jiggs and Maggie from '24, and Little Nemo from 1914. All in full color on fine glossy color. // Smash, the weekly comic paper reprinting Hulk stories in England ran an original story recently, and it was seen only by fans in Britain. The art was pretty good, but the stories did not come up to those of Lee. // Penelope, another English weekly based on a lady puppet secret service agent, is now carrying two pages in each issue devoted to a special Men from UNCLE strip. // England's WORLD ADVENTURE LIBRARY is issueing two books a month featuring text stories of Batman and Robin. // In Italy, Batman no longer appears in the pages of Nembo Kid (Superman) and has gone into his own magazine. It is all in black and white, and one of the first issues ran a two page spread on the Batmanians and showed pics of the covers done by BilJo plus featuring the membership certificate of an Italian member.

SPECIAL FANZINES TO NOTE

COMIC BOOK #2 shows a great improvement over #1, and concidering the quality of number 1, I would urge all fans to drop 60¢ off to Alan Hanley, 1940 W. Wilson Ave, Chicago, Ill. 60640. This issue features a second instalment of Good Guy, a strip called The Spook, and an unusual strip featuring Captain Thunder with each page done in the style of a different artist.

FANDOM'S SPECIAL #4 is ready now, and features the Black Falcon by Dave Herring (who is now living in New York and working for one of the Mad imitators), Dave Gypsy by Mike Vosberg, and Marvin Wolfman on the Peacemaker. The issue is 60¢ to Bruce Cardozo, 1512 Townsend Ave. Bronx, NY. 10452.

If Roy Thomas can corner Gardner Fox long enough to tape an interview, Alter Ego #10 will go to the printers. Fans are urged to just be patient for a little longer, for alter Ego is not yet dead.

TELEVISION INFORMATION

The National Cartoonist Society is working with NBC-TV to produce a special program on the leading newspaper comic strips and their creators. It should appear some time next spring. // Also next season, fans may see the debut of an Aquaman show scheduled to follow Superman on CBS Saturday mornings. However, other DC heroes such as Flash, Green Lantern, etc. will alternate each week as a secondary feature. // Hanna-Barbera have sold CBS the rights to three new shows under the names of Moby Dick, Zartan, and Shazam. // Not to be outdone, ABC has purchased the Fantastic Four and Spiderman cartoon shows now being produced by Hanna-Barbera. Perhaps with H-B doing the latter characters, they will turn out superior to the current Marvel offerings, but with out luck, the whold she-bang will go on at the same time.

Dateline: Comicdom

John McGeehan

****

EXPLANATION:
In order of their appearance: Title, latest issue, date received, number of pages, address, printing process, price folded (additional amount for flat copies), rating degree. "as" indicates a zine of ama strips only.

RATING SYSTEM:
(5) A zine worth any fans money.
(4) For all but the most discrimin ting fan.
(3) An average zine for buying after the 5s and 4s.
(2) For those with charitible or masochistic tendancies.
(1) For completists, friends and parents.

****

Bat Bulletin #106--Jan '67, 2pgs, Bill White, 1812 Jackson St., Columbia, Mo. 65201, ditto, s.a.e., a 1 to a 5 depending upon your intrest in Batman.

Batmania #14--Jan 9'67, 28(1)pgs, Bill White, 1812 Jackson St., Columbia, Mo. 65201, mimeo, 40(0), a 1 to a 5 depending upon your intrest in Batman. Fans should not send for future issues as Bill has plans for a zine similar to an ama press aliance. See BM #14 for full details on the latter.

Blood and Thunder #5 (formerly Super Theatre) 62(1)pgs, Lon Mitchell, 4340 Berwick, Toledo, Ohio 43612, ditto, 40(10), a 3 to the average comic fan but perhaps a 4 to fans of non-comic fiction and reports on flying saucers.

Comic Book #2--Jan 16'67, 32offset, plus 4(2)pgs, Alan Hanley, 1940 West Wilson Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60640, (as), a 4 to a 5 depending upon your intrest or how well the art/story line appeals.

Comic Celler #2--Jan 11'67, 44(2)pgs, Herman Soon, 1623 Brown St., Napa, Cal. 94558, litho, 65(0), 3. Contains nothing of intrest to the informed fan.

Comic Club News #8--Jan 10'67, 28pgs, Gabe Eisenstein, 7914 Paxton, Chicago, Ill. ditto, 15(10), 2.

Comic Comments #10--Dec 27'66, 24(3)pgs, Gary Brown, USF #761, U of So. Fla., Tampa, Fla. 33620, ditto, 5¢ stamp, 5 concidering price, purpose, frequency and the number of pages.

Comic Examiner, The #4--Jan 13'67, 32(2)pgs, Jim Dee, Box 1245 San Luis Obispo, Cal. 93401, ditto, 25(10), 3.

Dateline: Comicdom #20--Jan 28'67, 26(1)pgs, Bob Greene, 545 Cleveland Ave., South Bend, Ind. 46628, ditto, free to authors, artists and zine eds for letters of comment, rates a 5.

ERB-Dom #19--Dec 30'66, 24pgs, Camile Cazedessus Jr., Box 585, Breckenridge, Colo. 80424, (ERB), litho, 50(0), 5.

Fantasy Forum #2--Jan 16'67, 30(2)pgs, Bill Shelly, 881 Lovington Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216, ditto, 20(10), a 3 or 4 because of the low price, but fair intrest material and fair reproduction.

Fanzine, The #2--Jan 18'67, 54(18)pgs, Keith Morgan, 393 Barrington St., Rochester, NY. 14607, (as), ditto, 40(10), 3.

Gremlin #1--Jan 27'67, 20pgs, Alan Hutchinson, 4051 60th Way North, St, Petersburg, Fla. 33709, litho, 40 (10), 4 if you don't mind the price. Don't order #2 until advertised.

K-alpha #27--Jan 17'67, 64(1)pgs, Don & Maggie Thompson 8786 Hendricks Road, Mentor, Ohio, 44060, dit/mim/lith, membership, 5.

Kaptain Komet #1--Jan 6'67, 20pgs, Jack Reynolds, 76 Brighton Road, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, ditto, 35(10), 2.

On The Drawing Board #55--Dec 30'66, 10pgs, you are already reading the fanzine that gives you more news of pro and fan activities, so no other details will be presented here.

Panelologist, The #1--Jan 11'67, 4pgs, Jerry Bails, Box 7499, North End Station, Detroit, Mich. 48202, litho, 8 issues for $1, none sold seperate, the 8 will rate a 5 to fans who appreciate indexes and the like.

Pow Comics #17--Jan 28'67, 22pgs, John Lebar, 305 North Jordan St., Allentown, Pa. 18102, (as), ditto, 15(10),3.

Rocket's Blast Comicollector, The #49--Jan 21'67,122pgs, Gordon Love, 9875 S.W. 212st, Miami, Fla. 33157, mimeo, 50(10), 5.

Super Spoof Comics #1--Jan 10'67, 44(1)pgs, Craig Henderson, Box 78, Route 1, Bowie, Md., 20715, (as), ditto, 40(10), 3.

Symbol, The #7--Jan 20'67, 10pgs, Lynn Wooley, 1609 So. 35th St., Temple, Tex. 76501, mimeo, 20(10), 3.

"What Th..?" #3--Jan 13'67, 16pgs, Marvin Wolfman, 142-18 59th Ave., Flushing, NY. 11355, ditto, unused 4¢ stamp, a 5 concidering price & monthly rate of publication.

Ymir #11--Jan 7'67, 7" x 10", 20pgs, John Chambers, 1438 Lansing, San Jose, Cal. 95118, ditto, 40(0), 4 to a 5 depending upon your intrest in the material.

Super Adventures & Stories of Suspense, Marvin Wolfman, 142-18 59th Ave., Flushing, NY. 11355, ditto, informs me that he now publishes both zines and that Dave Herring has no more to do with selling or editing either of them; so all orders should be sent to Marvin for both publications. SoS #3 had all text fiction, while SA had a mixture of articles and strips and fiction.

ACADEMY FORUM

David Kaler
Executive Secretary
Box 392
Cooper Station
NY, NY. 10003

Having been in fandom for several years, it never really entered my mind that many of you never knew what this Academy was all about. However recent comments in several fanzines have indicated that this is the case. I might add, too, that publicity in various newspapers around the country has implanted false ideas in the minds of several fans. For example, one paper listed the Academy has having 2000 members, and one fan assumed (in print) that the Academy had $4000 to work with.

The Academy Charter as set up several years ago, defines any person interested in comic art as a member of the Academy, whether this person collects, draws, or whatever. Keeping this in mind, you are all members of the Academy right now! However, what you ARE NOT, is "supporting members" who pay out $2 a year to help us do something for you!

Many fans seem leery of the Academy saying that they don't know what its accomplishments have been. If this is you, then I suggest you contact someone who attended the New York Con, or at least read one of the many reviews appearing in several fanzines. Moreover, we helped out by supporting the Southwesern Con in Dallas and the Gateway Con in St. Louis. We will be sending materials to Fred Patten to give out and display at the West Coast Science Fiction Con in Los Angeles this year on the Fourth of July weekend.

Since the first of this year, when the Academy for the coming year was finally set down in specific terms, we have had about 25 new members signed up, and more have joined since then. We have some $400 or more in the treasury at this time, however money has been going out rapidly to defray the costs of printing and mailing OTDB to you. If we don't get more members and some extra financial help, the treasury may well be depleated by the end of this year. And that means the end of OTDB, or at least an increase in price.

BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN! The Academy is getting together articles by pros and fans to be printed in the new COMIC READER, and it will be in the hands of the printers by the first of March. We should mention here that this edition of TCR is not connected in any way with that offered by Derrill Rothermich [See our editorial--Bob] and that no money will be taken for the new TCR until I have a zine to mail out.

The first 100 fans signing up with the Academy for this year will receive an autographed copy of the 1966 Academy Con booklet. Pros from many companies have signed these, and they will make a fine addition to any fans collection. It should be noted that all 100 of these will be mailed simultaneously to avoid extra work and there are still many copies left so don't hesitate to send in your $2.

Also scheduled under the new Academy's program is another great Academy Con. We have alredy leased the City Squire Motor Inn, the site of last years con, for the July 14-16 weekend. The program will cover a wide range of intrests featuring points of intrest for new fans as well as old.

If we can arrange to get back the material sent out for the Who's Who by Paul Gambaccini, the Academy will have the new Who's Who ready by the time of the con. Those persons who paid out money to Paul in '65 will receive their copies as promised. Persons who join the Academy this year will get a discount on the Academy fanzine, our newsletter OTDB, the Who's Who, attendance at the Academy Con, and any other activity we take part in. It should be noted, too, that only those fans who sent Gambaccini checks and fans who rejoin now will be concidered members. All fans who sent Paul money will get the Who's Who, but they won't be concidered supporting members for '67. Also, fans who did send Paul checks will be receiving them back shortly, and we hope you will see fit to rejoin.

oOo

It should be mentioned herein with regard to the DC Trade Center, an organization begun by David Esser, that these two organizations (DCTC & Academy) are not in competition, and in fact, are in no way simillar, thus rulling out all chance for competition. The DCTC had its beginings some time back under totally different policy than that under which it is now controlled. This group is set up as a fun group, and one which does a great deal toward supporting fandom through providing room for the new fan. It costs nothing to join, and techincally, you get nothing for joining. Those fanzine published by the DCTC are available to all fans, though DCTC members get a 5¢ deduction. On the other hand, the Academy can only catter to fans who WANT such items as the Who's Who and TCR and OTDB. If a fan does not want these items, we would be the first to tell him that he will get nothing he wants from the Academy! And yet, for the fan who would want these items, the savings in cost is more than worth the $2 fee. You may ask how this is possible, but really the answer is quite simple: With a large paying group, there will always be a certain amount of capitol on hand with which to finance projects, and with each passing year more people will join and rejoin. In this way, the Academy can publish fanzines and support cons which few individuals could do on there own.

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coming next month:

!!

THE LITTLE GREEN DINOSAUR
By: Harry Chambers
IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT CERTAIN...UH... 'DISSADENT'... FANS HAVE BEEN REFERING TO ME...
...AS THE LITTLE GREEN... CROW...
TO THOSE OF SUCH BLIND AND ENFEEBLED NATURES I CAN BUT SAY...

A SPECIAL EDITORIAL

BY ROBERT SCHOENFELD

Whoops...
It looks like fate has decreed that this issue of OTDB by held up no matter how hard we tried to put it out quickly. As stated earlier in this issue, the paste up pages were sent out to the printer's during the first week of February. We had been forced to switch from the printer who has handled our last several issues, and I chose what seemed to be a very reasonable place in Chicago. However, much to my dismay, on February 13 I received the paste ups back from the company who informed me that they did no work that required reduction. So here we are, late once again. As this is being written on February 13th for explanitory purposes, I should mention that it will go back into the mail once again, bound for Illinois, and God willing, will not be held up for too much over one more week.

oOo oOo oOo

Now is as good a time as any to mention that the number of typing errors present in previous issues have been far in excess of what they should be. Naturally these will creep into any amature publication, however, we have been admittedly lax in this respect. For this reason, we are stating publicly that next issue will pass under very close scrutiny prior to going to the printer. Unfortunately, it is an evil of fandom that when a fanzed receives little (if any) serious complaint about his product, he may lose sight of what constitutes a quality magazine. It is quality we hope to strive for and achieve, and with the helpful comments of fans like on & Maggie Thompson, we may yet make it.

oOo oOo oOo

SOMETHING THAT MUST BE SAID

No doubt, those of you who follow such fanzines as the Rocket's Blast have come across ads for the "organization" known as the DC Trade Center. Perhaps you even gave the ad a second glance and, in reading, even concidered joining. Well, if you haven't already, we ask that you give serious concideration the facts which follow.

In his academy column for this month Dave points out that technically the Academy supports this organization. for the work they are doing to enlarge fandom. However, there are many things about the DCTC that the Academy cannot support or approve.

Let's go back to that ad for a moment just to see what it said, and let's examine some of the between-the-lines facts that you may not know. In one of the DCTC's ads, Marshall Lanz (Chairman of the club) states: "They /the Academy/ boast a 2000 member club. This adds up to $4000 a year." Well, the Academy does have about 2000 members, but only a small portion of these people will pay $2 to become "Supporting Members." Therefore, the Academy has not stolen (as Mr. Lanz would imply) $4000 from the fans. and, too, with the DCTC's membership of 500, he cannot boast that "We have more members than the Academy." But more importantly, how many of those 500 members would be willing to put out $2 to support their club? This is the seperating factor.

In his ad, Mr. Lanz lists the club's 5th Co-Chairman as being Raymond Miller. However, Ray, a good friend, tells me that he isn't even a member!! Much less a Co-Chairman! When I brought this to the attention of Mr. Lanz, he replied that "Whether Ray Miller conciders himself a chairman or not is unknown to me. He is. He has as much influence as I do for that matter. He suggested a new name for the DCTC and the Forbush Gazette, and it was because of him that these things were changed." To this I would reply that where influence is concerned, I must be pretty powerful; becuase two days after receiving a letter from me on this very subject, David Esser (founder and organizer) absolved all ties with the club! And for the comments and criticisms I have made in personal correspondance and in letters, I should be made Commander in Chief of the whole affair. But more important than that point is that this is hardly a commendable practice, and that common courtesy dictates that a man have the oportunity to decline such an "honor" or to at least request that his name not be used in such advertisments.

In his ad, Lanz says "The DCTC boasts unlimited funds: Yes, it is almost true, too. The club's highest co-chairman, Dave Esser, makes over $100 a week, most of which goes into keeping up the club." However, in the course of personal corespondance, Lanz tells me that "He /Esser/ doesn't have the money at this time to do it /finance fanzines/ and I think I've finally gotten it into his head that such a thing is foolish anyway." And in a recent telephone conversation, Esser himself told me that he had grown tired of financing such a foolish organization for the simple reason that he did not receive any sort of dividend for his investment!

Lanz goes on to say that "We are new members of Capa Alpha and are trying to get the rights to the Comic Reader." However, as a member of Capa Alpha myself, I can tell you that the DCTC is not a member, and frankly I doubt if they could put out a regularly acceptable contribution. Moreover, the hierarchy of the DCTC knew full well in advance of that ad that Dave Kaler was going to revive TCR. However, their ad would leave one with the impression that these things are almost assured of happening!

In another part of his ad, Lanz states that the DCTC will soon sponsor their own version of the Alley awards. He says that theirs will be the "best" pôll, and to this I can but say that actions speak louder than words and that the Alley Ballot appeared in last months issue of OTDB.

In his Irving Forbush Gazette #1, Lanz makes use of the Question Corner column by Raymond Miller. This feature, however, is a copyrighted column under my name. When Lanz went to Ray for the contribution, he could not have known this, however, the injury arises because of the fact that he told Ray that this was being done with permission! This is a direct lie! Ray, thinking this to be ok, went ahead with the project, only to discover later the truth of the matter!
From here Lanz went on to some of the other contributors to push. Now carefully pointing out that Ray was a member. One of these contributors, Ray tells me, is John Ryan. Since Ray and John were good friends, John felt this must be a good deal, but fortunately, before agreeing to contribute, he checked with Ray who immediately told him not to bite. Now understand here, that I have no perminant claim to the souls of my contributors, but I do object when another fanzine editor uses deceit to gain his own ends.

To summerize, the greatest percent of the content of the ads circulated by the DCTC are false and liebelous! They contain information which is either not true at all or stretched to meet the wishes of the DCTC. The greatest problem that has arrisen as a result of these ads is the number of fanzine editors who were conferred the chance to join with the possibility of building up the number of their subscribers and who are now aiding in spreading this miss-information. Many of these fanzine editors read Gary Brown's fanzine Comic Comments where this ad first appeared, and they were obviously influenced by it. However, Lanz says that "no matter how...hard I try...I just can't understand why a little ready sheet in a zine with a circulation of 150 is going to hurt the Academy, especially if it is done in fun." I have already pointed out how this hurts, but it is not the academy it hurts directly, it is fandom as a whole. And if his idea of fun is building up lies and falisifications for his own end, I say that fans must be told of the truth behind his "fun."

The most important thing to remember about the DCTC is that they charge nothing. They seem to think that this is really grand, however as Lanz himself points out, "You get exactly what you pay for..." which in this case is absolutely nothing; to which I say, "why should we bother?"

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The above is not intended to stipulate an attack on the person of Mr. Lanz. We realize that he is not wholely at fault for these occurances. However, by the same token, if he can give just rebuttal to any or all of the above statements, we will by all means print them. It is not our aim to put down an organization which (as we said before) has the godd of fandom at heart. I simply do not approve of the methods they have employed to gain their ends, and frankly, I don't see how any right thinking fan could. I will be more than willing to make room in the next issue for any intelligent comment--pro or con--the DCTC or fandom in general might want to make on the subject. We hope too, that fans will be able to accept these contents as facts, rather than opinions, and that they are presented to show only the true picture behind these events. We have left it entirely up to you--the reader--to make your own choice as to just how legitimate or beneficial such an organization is.

---Robert Schoenfeld---
--Editor--

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Dear Comic Fan:

In the immediate future we plan to introduce a number of unusual comic magazines.

Comic Fandom has been selected for reader response. Your expert opinion and advice will result in bringing all readers of comic magazines those subjects which your group determines to be most interesting to the reader.

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Cordially,
Joe M. Salini
Executive Editor

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by casting your votes and comments through
presents many exciting possibilities, and
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plug) on this line of comics, you won't wa
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YA BUT WHADAYA WANT?

IN ORDER TO GIVE YOU THE KIND OF COMIC MAGAZINES YOU WANT MOST WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. PLEASE FILL IN THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS CARD AND DROP IN MAIL BOX....

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to take advantage of this situation
this post card. This oportunity
fandom stands to gain a good deal as
be permitted to turn an ad into a
nt to miss Ken Keller's article on

IRWIN HAT

JAMES H. GARDNER

NEXT ISSUE: first of many new characters

THE EGO CRUSHER

Robert Latona

Comic Fandom, as we know it, can be found in Italy on a scale which, like the celebrated national character, is something altogether different from what we're accostomed to, and, like everything else on that peculiar peninsula, it is enigmatically and uniquely Italian. To attempt to discribe it otherwise would elucidate nothing more and nothing less.

Let us concider for a moment, the analogy. Suppose that today on the nation's, there is to be found a professional, adult, semi-slick "fanzine", devoted to articles and serious discussion on comic art and illustration, and carrying exclusively the works of Schulz, Capp, Kelly, Gould, Hart and others. Imagine also, in the space of two or three years, to see reprinted beautifully decade upon decade of vintage newspaper comic strips--Raymond's Flash Gordon, every single Mandrake and Phantom strip ever made, with Rip Kirby and Prince Valliant likewise underway, and a generous smattering of X-9 (by Raymond), Buck Rogers, Batman, Disney, Popeye, and Johnny Hazzard.

And all of these are in constant, enthusiastic demand! So much so, in fact, that once this publisher has run out of Lee Falk's continuity, he must bring in local talent to create new stories to counter the demand for the weekly issues.

And there is another aspect we would find remarkable--those two old goodies, Sex and Horror. Those so inclined have their preferrence of revolting (not so much in goriness, as in concept) evil super villains (cf. -ahem!- Son Of Vanguard #1) or a legion of galactic sexpots (you've heard of Barbarella, yes?) who, each in her own inimitable fashion, manages to find some excuse for taking off her clothes in and around this and assorted other solar systems. These are comics for adults, even to the point where several pages of each issue are devoted to actual cheesecakey pin-ups--and I'm not thinking of the kind found on Gold Key back covers.

In short, all around the word is comics, Comics, COMICS, read and enjoyed by many, a perfectly legitimate and popular media recognized by and duly respected by everyone else. Could it ever happen here? Think of that newsweek article, think of the Batman TV show, think of how you yourself feel standing at the drug-store rack, flipping through the stacks. I doubt that we will ever come to that. But that is just a partial glance, only my impression of a part of what is indeed going on in Italy today.

Now what this has been leading up to all along is, in fact, nothing--nothing at all. There is an Italian fandom, I know, but as the preceding paragraphs have tried to explain, I can't pretend to understand it, knowing the little that I do. That may or may not be really important, but what I can offer in the way of a review is offered herewith.

Alfredo Castelli of Milan is doubtless known to many american fans, as his rather caustic appraisal of "Il Comicdom americano" in the October LINUS has been mentioned in these pages. (That's something else to get into someday: Fandom "as others see us". Oh, well, anyone who likes VaNGUARD can't be all bad.) Signor Castelli has also had some experience as a pro, he has done scripts for the ever-popular DIABOLIK and I've seen a number of comics with one page filler cartoons by him. Together with Paolo Sala, in the name of the COMICS CLUB-104 (why the "104" I know not) Alfredo has brought forth an Italian publication entitled, succinctly enough, "COMICS".

The first issue dated April, 1966, is 18 pages, offset, a very decent first effort in every respect, and would no doubt hold its own even in the wretchedly overbloated circles of American fanzines. I can make out with some degree of perception, a quite detailed account of the history of comics in Argentina; and introductory page on L'Asso Di Picche--The Ace of Spades, an early postwar Italian creation; and the beginning of an international glossary of the comics, the first section of which lists the principal characters from "Abie Kabibble" to "The Avengers". The main feature of this issue, is an 8½page history of comic art in America, from "Comics on Parade", on up to "Thunder Agents". Although there seems to be some difficulty in putting the right elements in their proper perspective, and they have a devil of a time with the spelling of proper names, all in all I suppose they did manage to outline for the Italian reader, a fairly substantial account of the past 30 years.

The second issue is a special one devoted to the aforementioned Asso Di Picche and reprints of some of the strips, in a nine page feature.

The third, however, is something else: a 46 page "Guida a Topolino" that is, "A Tribute To Micky Mouse", an index and compendum of Walt Disney's famous little character with many, many details I'm sure are not generally known to the American fan. There is a complete (to my knowlege) listing of all of Disney's film productions from 1927 to 1958, an index to the Micky Mouse stories in "Walt Disney's Comics and Stories" compiled by John and Tom McGeehan, a summary of some of the earliest newspaper story lines; and perhaps most significant is an illustrated guide to all the American artists--including Disney himself (!), Iwerks, Lewin, Eisenberg, Heimdahl, and Alex Toth (sic), with examples of each and marginal notes on each artists' style. The rest of the material deals mostly with the similar details on the Italian MM productions. Particular attention is devoted to the prewar appearances, as it will be remembered that Musolini was quite fond of the rascally rodent.

These are all very fine publications, but of course the one drawback is that they were written by Italians and for Italians, and as one might expect, are written in Italian. The MM Index, consisting as it does of listings of American titles, can be readily useful to anyone. Spanish students, especially if they look hard enough, can make out many of the mutual cognates and understand much of what is going on. Of course, if you do happen to speak the language, then you're all set.

But otherwise, I'm afraid the average fan would get little real use out of these publications. The MM Index may still be available from the Collector's Book Store, Los Angeles. Or else, I can only tell you that it sells for 500 Lira (about 75¢), as no subscription data is given within the zine itself. I suggest you inquire to Alfredo Castelli, Via M. Rosso, 15, Milano, Italy.

-END-

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